Mrs. *Packer*'s Anſwer to the Lady *Aſhe*'s Reaſons for Paſſing the Bill ſent from the Houſe of *Lords*.

Reaſons. THE firſt *Charge* in the ſaid *Reaſon's*, is Mrs *Ann Aſhe*, when under a Commiſſion of Lunacy was violently taken from her *Keepers*, and by force Married to Mr. *Packer* whom ſhe had never before ſeen.

Anſwer. It is true that ſuch *Commiſſion* was iſſued and returned, and I was thereupon committed to the Cuſtody of my *Siſter*: But the Proceedings had ſince the ſaid Marriage before the *Right Honourable* the Lord *Keeper*, and in *Doctors Commons*, and before the *Delegates* ſufficiently ſhew that I was no Lunatick, and the Perſons who procured the ſame very well knew it; for tho' I apply'd ſeveral times to the late Lord *Chancellor Somers* by Petitions under my own Hand, that his *Lordſhip* would inſpect me; Yet ſuch Petitions were rejected, leſt it ſhould appear that my pretended *Madneſs* was a degree of *Senſe*, more in me than was ordinary in the *Family*, and which they would paſs on the World for *Madneſs*.

It is likewiſe true that I was by violence taken from my *Keepers*, but the violence done, was to *my Goalers* only; it being my earneſt requeſt to be delivered from their *Cruelty*; and therefore in ſome Senſe it is true, that I was forced to the ſaid *Marriage*, as the only means to redeem me from a hard and miſerable *Confinement*. But it can with no appearance of Truth be ſaid that I had never ſeen Mr. *Packer* before our *Marriage*, for I had ſeen him more than once, and often converſed with him by Writing. But if not having ſeen him be any Argument againſt the validity of the *Marriage*; another in the *Family* muſt for ever want a *Husband*, which it is humbly conceiv'd will be thought a *hardſhip*.

Reaſons. Another *Reaſon* given for the *Bill*, is, that I am not permitted to viſit my Friends and Relations; have not neceſſary Apparel and Attendance, and that Mr. *Packer* is ſo much in Debt that I am in danger to looſe my *Fortune*.

Anſwer. That I am not permitted to viſit my *Friends* and *Relations* is not true, but I do noh viſit *Relations* becauſe they are not *Friends*, and therefore conceive it more unreaſonable that the *Bill* ſhould provide that they may intrude on me againſt my *Will*; and yet in caſe the *Truſtees* (as they are called) think fit to remove me from my *Husband*, there is no Proviſion that he be permitted to viſit me. Let every Woman make this her own *Caſe*.

It is true, I have not the ſame Apparel or Attendance I had before my *Marriage*; the firſt is much better, and the latter not ſo numerous. I have now as many good Suits of Cloaths as befits my Rank, which I can produce to this *Honourable Houſe*, together with my Wedding Cloaths, and other my *Wardrobe* of *Raggs*, provided for me by my Relations when under their Care, and as to my *Attendants* I deſire not ſo many as before, thinking it better my ſelf to govern a few then be under the *Cuſtody* of a great *many*.

That my *Fortune* is loſt I know to be the Opinion of my Relations, and they are in the right of it, For they mean it, loſt to themſelves, but if the diſpoſition of the *Law* in giving it to the *Husband*, be to loſe it; Old, as I am given out to be, I ſhould ſo loſe it again, and I believe my Siſter who is but One Year Younger, would be glad to do the ſame thing.

That Mr. *Packer*'s Father left ſome Debts on the Eſtate cannot be deny'd, and that Mr. *Packer* has contracted more is true, but it was in *defence* of himſelf and me, againſt vexatious and malicious Proſecutions of my Relations, by them called *Kindneſs* to me and *Care* to preſerve my *Fortune*, but looking on my ſelf to be in no ſuch *danger* as is pretended, the *Court* of *Chancery* having got Poſſeſſion of my *Eſtate*, and made *Orders* for ſecurity of it; I am ſo mad as to think my ſelf no leſs effectually ſafe than if the ſame was *committed* to my Blind *Siſter*, Wiſe *Brother*, or any other Relations.

When my Lady Aſhe *ſhall find more* Reaſons *for the* Bill, *I will find more* Anſwers.